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(*b*) whether the Madras House Rent Control Order was promulgated to prevent undue increase in rent and ensure security of tenure;

(*c*) whether statistics are available of cases tried under the various clauses of the order and what they are;

(*d*) whether the order ceases to have effect after 30th September 1946; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to afford protection to tenants?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) Statistics are not readily available.

" (*d*) Yes.

" (*e*) The question of enacting legislation for the continuance of the rent control measures beyond the 30th September 1946 is receiving the attention of the Government."

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. THE PRESIDENT.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated 6th September 1946, has been received by me from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly :—

' In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 1946) as passed by the Assembly on the 6th September 1946 and signed by me, for the concurrence of the Council.' "

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

III.—THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL BOARDS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1946.

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" Sir, I move—

' *that the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1946, as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

" In moving this motion I should like to invite the attention of the House to a few facts. The last elections to municipalities and district boards were held somewhere about the year 1937. In the year 1939, shortly after the outbreak of war, the Congress Ministry which was in office resigned and the Government of the Province was taken over by the Governor under the powers vested in him under section 93 of the Government of India Act. But these municipalities and local boards continued to function up to June 1942. In the year 1942, in connection with what is known as the August Movement for national freedom, many of the local bodies passed resolutions expressing their sympathy with the movement for national freedom and desiring the release of the national leaders who had been put in prison. The Government of the day did not approve of those resolutions passed by the local bodies. Under the Local Boards Acts of 1920 and 1930 there are powers vested